

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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NOFORN/LIMITED/NO DISSEM ABROAD/CONTINUED CONTROL

COUNTRY	Japan/North Vietnam/China	REPORT NO.	CS DB-3/647,358
SUBJECT	Possible Foreign Ministry Support of TSUJI Masanobu's Alleged Trip to North Vietnam and Communist China	DATE DISTR.	26 June 1961
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DATE OF INFO. April-May 1961

PLACE & DATE ACQ. Japan, Tokyo (16 May 1961)

FIELD REPORT NO. FJT-7161

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: A Japanese Foreign Ministry official (F). Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. Sometime in April 1961, the Finance Section of the Japanese Foreign Ministry submitted to the Chief of the Foreign Ministry Secretariat a written request, bearing a high security classification, for approval of payment of \$1,300 in U.S. currency to TSUJI Masanobu, an independent member of the House of Councillors, as "remuneration."¹
2. A few days later, the Foreign Ministry received from the Japanese Ambassador in Saigon a classified communication which stated that TSUJI had been in Saigon and from there had proceeded under clandestine conditions to North Vietnam, disguised as a Buddhist monk. TSUJI had told the Ambassador that he also intended to enter Communist China and return to Japan by way of Hong Kong. The Ambassador reported that he tried to dissuade TSUJI from making this trip due to the risk involved; however, TSUJI countered by stating that his trip had the sanction of Foreign Minister KOSAKA Zentaro and Prime Minister LIKEDA Hayato, and that he had made arrangements for appointments with senior government officials in North Vietnam and Communist China as well as for safe passage in those countries.² The communication from Saigon requested confirmation of TSUJI's statements from the Foreign Ministry.
3. On or about 10 May 1961, the Foreign Ministry received a classified communication from the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh stating that TSUJI's personal effects, mostly clothing, were being shipped to either Hong Kong or Tokyo.³

Source Comments.

1. The request was apparently approved but there is no confirmation of the precise sum that was passed to TSUJI.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
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2. The Foreign Ministry might have asked TSUJI to make the trip for the purpose of probing Communist China's true attitude toward Japan. Chinese Communist leaders have the impression that TSUJI believes in "Asian Co-prosperity" and that he is willing to work for the severance of Japanese ties with the United States if Communist China will sever its ties with the USSR, thereby creating a third force of Asian nations that would ameliorate the prevailing East-West tension.

Field Comment. According to articles in the Japanese press on 26 and 27 May 1961, TSUJI's family had not heard from him since 27 April. The Tokyo Shimbun said the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok had reported that TSUJI had been there until 20 April; it added that the Japanese Foreign Ministry was worried over the possibility that TSUJI "might have infiltrated into war-torn Laos disguised as a monk."

Headquarters Comment. A Singapore AFP news dispatch of 27 May 1961 said the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok was investigating to determine TSUJI's whereabouts since his departure from Bangkok on an undetermined mission. The dispatch cited reports that he had entered Laos disguised as a Buddhist monk and carrying, "as a sort of passport," a photograph of himself shaking hands with President Nasir of Egypt.

3. Field Comment. Source said the communication from Phnom Penh specified either Hong Kong or Tokyo but source could not recall which.